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MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Turner Swamp Primitive Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE CHURCH

AT

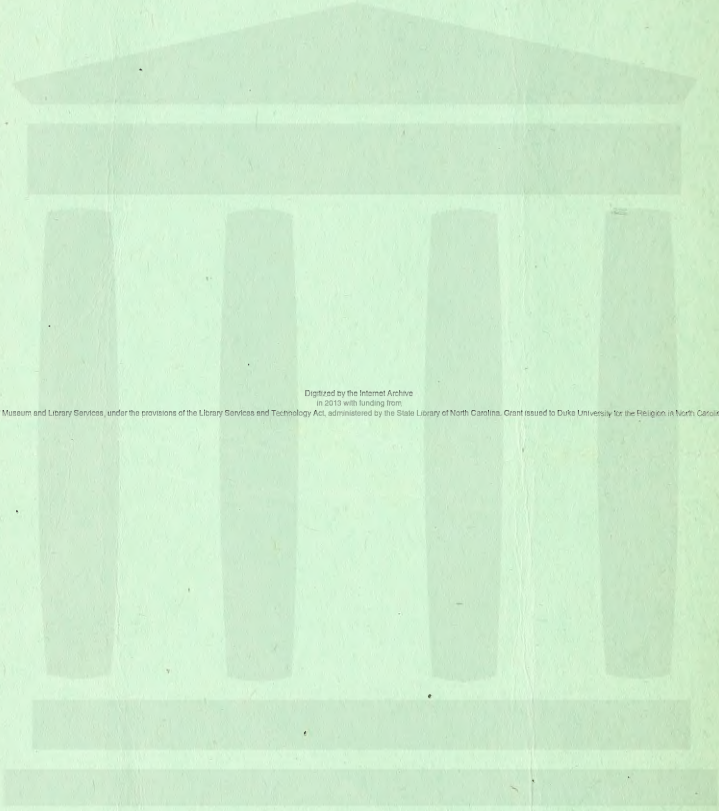
Turner Swamp

WAYNE COUNTY, N. C.

October 11, 12, 13, 1947

Elder T. B. Best, Moderator

John T. Alston, Clerk



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Proceedings

First: After praise and prayer by Elder Abram Hill he proceeded to preach the introductory sermon. His text was St. John 3:1, 4. Followed by Elder J. A. Armstrong. His text, Isaiah 60:1.

Second: After an intermission of one hour the messengers assembled in the church and the association conference was opened with praise and prayer by Elder W. M. Thompson.

Third: Elder T. B. Best was chosen Moderator. Elder John T. Alsbon was chosen Clerk.

Fourth: Visiting brethren and messengers from sister associations were invited to seats.

Fifth: Elders E. Tillery, I. Goodall, R. Barrow, were sent to the stand to preach after noon.

Sixth: Bro. E. Fort and Bro. J. Freeman were appointed to record the minister's text.

Seventh: Brethren J. Aycock, G. Drewery, J. Pulley were appointed a committee on finance.

Eighth: Brethren E. Dickerson, R. Rountree and K. Sherwood were appointed a committee on arrangements.

Ninth: Call for corresponding letters and messengers from sister associations.

Durham Association—Elder W. M. Thompson reported with love and peace and a sincere desire for continued correspondence.

Little Kehukee Association—A. Hymen with file of minutes. Also Elder H. Harris with love and peace.

Second Ketocton of Va.—S. W. Timbers, J. A. Bailey. No minutes but wishing for a continuance of correspondence. Elder I. C. Goodall was also present.

Elder Rush Borrow was with us as a visitor from the Tates Creek Association of Ohio and was given the right hand of fellowship by moderator.

Tenth: On motion petitionary letters to join this association was called for, now.

Eleventh: Letters from sister churches belonging to this association were called for, read and messengers names were enrolled in the statistical table. Also the amount of money each church contributed toward the expenses of the association.

Twelfth: On motion agreed to have four hundred (400) minutes printed.

Thirteenth: On motion agreed to pay the clerk ten dollars ($10.00) for his services.

Fourteenth: Circular letter was called for, read and received subject to correction before being attached to the minutes.

Fifteenth: Elder J. A. Armstrong was appointed to write the next circular letter.

Sixteenth: Petition for the next session of this association was called for by Little Nahunta Church Association to begin on Saturday before the second in October, 1947. T. B. Best to preach the introductory sermon. A. Hill, alternate.

Little Nahunta Church is 3⅓ miles from Pikeville, N. C., in Wayne County. Pikeville is on Route No. 117.

Seventeenth: Elders as follows were appointed to visit corresponding associations:

Durham Association—A. Hill and T. B. Best.

Little Kehukee—A. Hill and T. B. Best.

Second Ketocton—John T. Alston and J. A. Armstrong.

Eighteenth: On motion agreed to retain as treasurer Br. G. Drewery.

Nineteenth: On motion we adjourned until Monday morning on hymn of praise No. 506. Benediction by Elder W. M. Thompson.

MONDAY MORNING, 10 O'CLOCK

1. Conference was opened by Elder T. B. Best with praise and prayer.

2. Saturday's proceedings were called for, read and approved.

3. The roll of churches were called. Messengers were present from all the churches.

4. On motion treasurer reported as follows: The amount in the treasurer's hand, eight dollars and sixty-four cents ($8.64).

5. On motion the report of the treasurer was received.

6. On motion the finance committee made their report as follows:

Brought forward	$ 8.64
Received from churches	110.00
Contributions	117.49
Total amount	$236.13

7. On motion the report of the finance committee was received and the committee was honorably discharged.

8. On motion the following disbursements were made as follows:

For printing	$ 32.00
Clerk's	10.00
Expense Moderator	6.00
Traveling Ministers	102.00
Home Ministers	30.00
Treasurer	3.00
Lumber hauling and help	20.00
Nails	.60
Total disbursements	$203.50
Amount left in treasury	32.53
All total	$236.13

9. On motion the committee on arrangements was thanked for its services and honorably discharged.

10. On motion the clerk was authorized to have 400 minutes printed and distributed among the churches and association we correspond with and record one on our records.

11. On motion agreed that the rules of decorum and constitution be printed in these minutes.

12. Be it resolved that our thanks be extended to all the brethren and friends in the community of Turner Swamp Church for their loyal support of the Turner Swamp Association and that our moderator give public expressions at the close of the association.

13. On motion the association adjourned to meet on Saturday before the second in October, 1948, at Little Nahunta Church near Pikeville in Wayne County. Pikeville is on Route 117. The church is 3⅓ miles from Pikeville, N. C.

Benediction by Bro. M. Artis.

T. B. BEST, Moderator
JOHN T. ALSTON, Clerk

ORDER OF PREACHING

Saturday Afternoon

Elder E. Tillerey opened services with praise and prayer proceeded to preach text St. Luke 24:1.

Elder I. C. Goodall. Text Act 19:4.

Elder Rush Barrow. Text St. John 8:47.

Closing remarks by the moderator. Benediction by Elder S. W. Tinchers.

Sunday Morning

Services were opened by Elder H. Harris with praise and prayer, after which he proceeded to preach, Text St. John 1:1.

Elder A. Heymen. Text St. Luke 4:32.

Elder James A. Bailey. Text St. John 15:1.

Elder W. M. Thompson. Text "The Woman at the Well."

Sunday Afternoon

Services were opened with praise and prayer by Elder S. W. Timbers, after which he proceeded to preach, Text First Peter 2:22, 25.

Elder J. A. Armstrong, Text St. John 110:1.

Elder Rush Barrow, Text Mathew 7:3.

Monday Morning

Services were opened with praise and prayer by Elder A. Caley, after which he proceeded to preach Text John 14:1.

Elder A. Hill followed and preached no special text.

Elder W. M. Thompson, Text St. John 7:8.

Elder T. Best closed with very good remarks.

Benediction by Elder T. B. Best.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To those composing the Turner Swamp Association held with the church of Turner Swamp.

Dear Brethren:

Last year I was chosen to write the circular letter for the 1947 session of our association. I now make a very feeble attempt, trusting that the Lord will give strength to say a few words.

First of all I exhort you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be faithful and true, walking in the beautiful light of God who has commanded us to love one another as I have loved you, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believed on him should not perish but have everlasting life. And now may the God of Peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of his sheep, through the everlasting covenant make us perfect in every good work, to do his will working in us that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Most humbly submitted in love.

Yours in the hope of eternal life,

ANDREW COLEY

ORDAINED MINISTERS

NAMES	POSTOFFICE
Elder T. B. Best	Route 1, Fremont, N. C.
Elder A. Hill	505 Manchester St., Wilson, N. C.
Elder J. A. Armstrong	Route 1, Elm City, N. C.
Elder L. W. Pulley	Route 2, Spring Hope, N. C.
Elder J. T. Alston	Route 1, Elm Citl, N. C.
Elder E. Tillery	Wilson, N. C.
Elder Andrew Coley	Pikeville, N. C.

Licentiates

Harvey Armstrong	Route 1, Elm City, N. C.
Mance Bullock	Rocky Mount, N. C.
Ed Newsom	Wilson, N. C.
George Sumbly	Rocky Mount, N. C.

CHURCH QUARTERLY MEETINGS

London's Church—First Sunday in February, May, August and November.

Turner Swamp—Second Sunday in February, May, August and November.

Little Union—Fourth Sunday in January, April, July and October.

Barnes—Third Sunday in February, May, August and November.

Spring Hope—Third Sunday in February, May, August and November.

Rick's Grove—Second Sunday in March, June, September and December.

Rocky Mount—First Sunday in March, June, September and December.

Little Nahunta—Fourth Sunday in February, May, August and November.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in the being of God as almighty, eternal, unchangeable, of infinite wisdom, power, justice, holiness, goodness, mercy and truth, and that this God has revealed Himself in His word under the character of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that Almighty God has made known His mind and will to the children of men in His word, which word we believe to be of divine authority, and contains all things necessary to be known for the salvation of men and women, the same is comprehended or obtained in the books of the Old and New Testament as are commonly received.

3. We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for the purpose of His own glory, did elect a certain number of men and angels to eternal life, and that this election is particular, eternal and unconditional on the creature's part.

4. We believe that when God made man, at first he was pure, holy and upright, able to keep the law, but liable to fail, and that He stood as a federal head or representative of all his natural offspring, and that they were to be partakers of the benefits of his obedience or exposed to the misery which sprang from his disobedience.

5. We believe that Adam fell from this state of moral restitude and that he involved himself and all natural offspring in a state of death, and for that original transgression we all are both filthy and guilty in the sight of an Holy God.

6. We also believe that it is utterly out of the power of men as fallen creatures to keep the law of God perfectly, repent of their sins truly, or believe in Christ except they be drawn by the Holy Spirit.

7. We believe that in God's own appointed time and way (by means which He hath ordained), the elect shall be called, justified, pardoned, and sanctified, and that it is impossible they can utterly refuse the call, but shall be made willing by divine grace to receive the offers of mercy.

8. We believe that justification in the sight of God is only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, received and applied by faith alone.

9. We believe in like manner that God's elect shall not only be called and justified but that they shall be converted, born again, and changed by the effectual working of God's Holy Spirit.

10. We believe that such as are converted, justified and called by

His grace shall persevere in holiness and never fall finally away.

1. We believe it to be a duty incumbent on all God's people to walk religiously in good works, not in the old covenant way of seeking life and the favor of the Lord by it, but only as a duty from a principle of love.

12. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances, both belonging to the converted or true believers, and that persons who were sprinkled or dipped whilst in unbelief were not regularly baptized according to God's word, and that such ought to be baptized after they are savingly converted into the faith of Christ.

13. We believe that every church is independent in matters of discipline, and that associations, councils, and conferences of several ministers or churches, are not to impose on the churches, the keeping, holding, or maintaining any principle or practice contrary to the church's judgment.

14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust and a general judgment.

15. We believe that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting, and the joys of the righteous eternal.

16. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

17. Lastly, we do believe that for the mutual comfort, union and satisfaction of the several churches of the aforesaid faith and order, we ought to meet in an associational way, wherein each church ought to represent its case by its delegates and attend as often as is necessary to advise with the several churches and conference, and that the decision of matters in such associations ought not to be imposed or any wise binding on the churches without their consent, but only to sit and act as an advisory council.

DECORUM OF THE CHURCH

1. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen if need be.

2. Conference shall be opened by prayer or by the moderator.

3. Corresponding letters shall be called for and read.

4. A door of experience shall be opened for the reception of members into fellowship.

5. The state of the church shall be inquired into.

6. Proceed to any business that shall be before the house.

7. No person shall make a public speech without rising from his seat and addressing the moderator by the appelation of brother.

8. No person shall speak more than three times on any one subject without liberty of the Conference.

9. There shall be no whispering in time of public speech.

10. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be debated upon except it be withdrawn by him who made it.

11. The minority shall give up to the majority in all cases except receiving members into fellowship or to office.

12. If any query shall be handed in by writing, the clerk shall read it three times and lay it before the conference. If required, it shall be debated upon and answered or postponed.

13. Conference shall be adjourrned by praise and prayer by any person the moderator shall call on.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA DO ENACT:

Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, except at their regular place of business, to sell or offer for sale within one and one-half miles of any meeting of the Turner Swamp Primitive Baptist Association at any time during the three days and nights of its meetings, any wine, whiskey or other alcoholic drinks or beer, confectionaries, candies, lemonade, coca-cola, pepsi-cola, soda water, ginger ale or any cold or soft drinks or concoctions of any kind whatsoever, any cigars, cigarettes, tobacco of any kind or to make photographs or other pictures. Any person, firm or corporation so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than ten dollars nor over $50.00 nor less than ten days nor more than thirty days or both, at the discretion of the court.

Setion 2. A regular place of business under this act shall be a business which has been offering for sale regularly for six months immediately prior to said association the same class of goods which they offer for sale on the days of the meetings in Section 1 of the act.

Section 3. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification. Ratified this, the 12th day of October, 1913.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. To provide for the general rule of the churches.

2. To provide invariably a chain of communication among the churches.

3. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty.

4. To inquire into the cause why the church fails to represent them at any time in this Association.

5. To appropriate the monies by the church contributed for an association.

6. To appoint any member or members by and with his or her consent to contract any business which they may see necessary.

7. The association shall have power to withdraw from any church in the Union which violates the rules of this Association or deviates from the orthodox principles of religion.

8. To admit any of the distant brethren in the ministry, who may be present at the time of the sitting, whom it shall judge necessary.

9. The association shall have the power to adjourn itself to any future time or place it may think most convenient to the churches in this Union. We will not hold in our churches any person who is in the practice of visiting Masonic lodges or the lodges of any and all secret societies or who on any occasion conforms to their customs, or parades, nor will we countenance any such individual who may reside or come among us in the character of a preacher who shall travel within the bounds of this association establishing societies for the collecting of money, or who himself be collecting money to support any institution whatever. We will not fellowship any member or members of Missionary, Bible Tract, or Sunday School union societies, nor advocate the theological schools, nor any person who does fellowship with them, nor will we hold such in our churches.

STATISTICAL TABLE

PASTORS	CHURCHES	MESSENGERS	Baptised	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	No. in Fellowship	Contributions
T. B. Best	London's	R. Rountree, John T. Alston	0	0	1	0	0	6	75	$30
A. Hill	Turner Swamp	E. Dickerson, J. Aycock	5	0	1	0	1	1	47	17
T. B. Best	Barnes	J. Pope, K. Sherrod	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	9
J. A. Armstrong	Little Union	M. Barnes, H. L. Armstrong	0	0	0	0	0	3	31	7
J. A. Armstrong	Rocky Mount	S. Watters, M. B. Bullock	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	10
L. W. Pulley	Spring Hope	G. D. Drewery, J. G. Pulley	0	0	0	0	2	0	18	18
J. A. Armstrong	Rick's Grove	Martha Powell	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
T. B. Best	Little Nahunta	J. Sprill, J. L. Coley	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	7

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